

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Currently Amended). A DNA sequence encoding a protein capable of binding to TRAF, ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) a cDNA sequence of the herein designated IREN comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) a DNA sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the DNA sequence defined in (a).~~

2-9 (Cancelled)

10 (Currently Amended). A vector comprising a DNA sequence ~~according to any one of claims 1 and 5~~encoding a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.

11 (Original). A vector according to claim 10 capable of being expressed in a eukaryotic host cell.

12 (Original). A vector according to claim 10 capable of being expressed in a prokaryotic host cell.

13 (Previously Presented). Isolated transformed eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cells containing a vector according to claim 10.

14-29 (Cancelled)

30 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for modulating the TRAF2 modulated/mediated effect on cells comprising, as active ingredient, a recombinant animal virus vector encoding a protein capable of binding a cell surface receptor and encoding at least one IREN protein encoded by ~~any one of claims 1 and 5~~ SEQ ID NO:4.

31-32 (Cancelled)

33 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention or treatment of a pathological condition associated with NF- $\kappa$ B induction or with any other activity mediated by TRAF2 or by other molecules to which a protein encoded by ~~any one of claims 1 and 5~~ the cDNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 binds, said composition comprising an effective amount of a DNA molecule consisting of a sequence coding for a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.

34-35 (Cancelled)

36 (Currently Amended). A ~~composition comprising a~~ DNA molecule consisting of a sequence coding for a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.

37-46 (Cancelled)